



AFRL-OSR-VA-TR-2015-0182

Critical Scales, Fundamental Structures and... of Turbulent Flames

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06/01/2015
Final Report

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Air Force Research Laboratory
AF Office Of Scientific Research (AFOSR)/ RTE
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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE						<i>Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188</i>
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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 05-18-15		2. REPORT TYPE Final report		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) 4/1/12-3/31/15		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Critical Scales, Fundamental Structures and Inherent Instabilities of Turbulent Flames			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER			
			5b. GRANT NUMBER FA9550-12-1-0138			
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER			
6. AUTHOR(S) Forman Williams			5d. PROJECT NUMBER			
			5e. TASK NUMBER			
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) The Regents of the University of California; University of California, San Diego 9500 Gilman Drive #0411 La Jolla, CA 92093-0411				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) AF OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH 875 N. RANDOLPH ST. ROOM 3112 ARLINGTON VA 22203				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) AFOSR		
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT DISTRIBUTION A: Distribution approved for public release.						
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES						
14. ABSTRACT This research addressed a number of fundamental aspects of turbulent combustion. Regime diagrams were identified for both premixed and non-premixed turbulent flames. Characteristics of turbulent flames in the different regimes were investigated. To complement low-speed regimes, types of high-speed turbulent combustion were determined. Interactions of detonations with turbulent fields were clarified. The limits in which detonation thicknesses were small and large in comparison with the range of turbulence scales were both analyzed. It was shown that in both limits interactions of detonations with non-uniform fluid density fields had greater effects than interactions with non-uniform fluid velocity fields. High-speed turbulent-combustion dynamics thereby was shown to behave very differently than low-speed turbulent-combustion dynamics. In addition, fuel-spray interactions in mixing layers were studied. By exhibiting fuel-dependent non-monotonic variations of mixture fraction in the two-phase flow fields, traditional approaches to sub-grid-scale modeling of turbulent spray combustion were shown to be in need of revision. Useful directions for future research in the area were identified. In addition to these advances, chemistry of hydrogen combustion was improved.						
15. SUBJECT TERMS Turbulent Combustion, Regime Diagrams, Flame Theory and Modeling						
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF: a. REPORT U			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAR	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON Forman Williams	
					19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include area code) 858-534-5492	

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1. A. L. Sánchez, E. Fernández-Tarrazo, P. Boivin, A. Liñán and F. A. Williams, "Ignition Time of Hydrogen-Air Diffusion Flames," *Comptes Rendus Mecanique* 340, 882-893 (2012).
2. P. Boivin, A.L. Sánchez and F. A. Williams, "Four-Step and Three-Step Systematically Reduced Chemistry for Wide-Range H₂-Air Combustion Problems," *Combustion and Flame* 160, 76-82 (2013).
3. J. Arrieta-Sanagustín, A. L. Sánchez, A. Linán and F. A. Williams, "Coupling-Function Formulation for Monodisperse Spray Diffusion Flames with Infinitely Fast Chemistry," *Fuel Processing Technology* 107, 81-92 (2013).
4. E. Fernández-Tarrazo, A. L. Sánchez and F. A. Williams, "Hydrogen-Air Mixing-Layer Ignition at Temperatures Below Crossover," *Combustion and Flame* 160, 1981-1989 (2013).
5. D. Martínez-Ruiz, J. Urzay, A. L. Sánchez, A. Lináñ and F. A. Williams, "Dynamics of Thermal Ignition of Spray Flames in Mixing Layers," *Journal of Fluid Mechanics* 734, 387-423 (2013).
6. A. L. Sánchez, E. Fernández-Tarrazo and F. A. Williams, "The Chemistry Involved in the Third Explosion Limit of H₂-O₂ Mixtures," *Combustion and Flame* 161, 111-117 (2014).
7. A. L. Sánchez and F. A. Williams, "Recent Advances in the Understanding of Flammability Characteristics of Hydrogen," *Progress in Energy and Combustion Science* 41, 1-55 (2014).
8. C. Huete, A. L. Sánchez and F. A. Williams, "Theory of Interactions of Thin Strong Detonations with Turbulent Gases," *Physics of Fluids* 25, 076105 (2013).
9. C. Huete, A. L. Sánchez and F. A. Williams, "Linear Theory for the Interaction of Small-Scale Turbulence with Overdriven Detonations," *Physics of Fluids* 26, 116101 (2014).
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11. J. Furukawa, Y. Yoshida and F. A. Williams, "Structures of Methane-Air and Propane-Air Turbulent Premixed Bunsen Flames," *Combustion and Flame*, submitted, (2015).

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Organization / Institution name

The Regents of the University of California; University of California, San Diego

Grant/Contract Title

The full title of the funded effort.

Critical Scales, Fundamental Structures and Inherent Instabilities of Turbulent Flames

Grant/Contract Number

AFOSR assigned control number. It must begin with "FA9550" or "F49620" or "FA2386".

FA9550-12-1-0138

Principal Investigator Name

The full name of the principal investigator on the grant or contract.

Forman Williams

Program Manager

The AFOSR Program Manager currently assigned to the award

Chiping Li

Reporting Period Start Date

04/01/2012

Reporting Period End Date

03/31/2015

Abstract

This research addressed a number of fundamental aspects of turbulent combustion. Regime diagrams were identified for both premixed and non-premixed turbulent flames. Characteristics of turbulent flames in the different regimes were investigated. To complement low-speed regimes, types of high-speed turbulent combustion were determined. Interactions of detonations with turbulent fields were clarified. The limits in which detonation thicknesses were small and large in comparison with the range of turbulence scales were both analyzed. It was shown that in both limits interactions of detonations with non-uniform fluid density fields had greater effects than interactions with non-uniform fluid velocity fields. High-speed turbulent-combustion dynamics thereby was shown to behave very differently than low-speed turbulent-combustion dynamics. In addition, fuel-spray interactions in mixing layers were studied. By exhibiting fuel-dependent non-monotonic variations of mixture fraction in the two-phase flow fields, traditional approaches to sub-grid-scale modeling of turbulent spray combustion were shown to be in need of revision. Useful directions for future research in the area were identified. In addition to these advances, chemistry of hydrogen combustion was improved. A wide range of hydrogen combustion problems was identified and solved. Especially noteworthy was the clarification of the third explosion limit for hydrogen. While previously diffusion of HO₂ was believed to be of greatest importance for the third limit, it was shown that, instead diffusion of H₂O₂ was of greatest importance for this limit. The research finally resulted in a thorough

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understanding of hydrogen combustion, with the chemical kinetics now well defined. A complete summary of these results was prepared.

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